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NORTHAMPTON
Mercury&Citizen

Thursday, April 23, 2009 FREE EVERY WEEK

The past week in headlines

At-a-glance news...



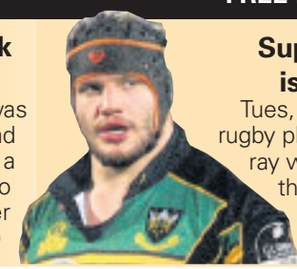
Young mum in TV operation

Tues, Apr 21 – Young mum Charlene Cooper of Kingsthorpe appeared on TV's *The Hospital* having a gastric band fitted



Thieves wreck club tribute

Tues, Apr 21 – It was revealed thieves had stolen paving from a memorial garden to Blisworth footballer Tim Spooner (left)



Super Euan is a Lion

Tues, Apr 22 – Saints rugby player Euan Murray was selected for the British & Irish Lions tour (see back page)

Lower speed limits on trial

PLANS to reduce speed limits on some Northamptonshire A-roads to 50mph are already under way in the county, following measures announced by the Government to cut road deaths by a third.

Road safety officers at Northamptonshire County Council said they were already looking at pilot schemes on two roads in the south of the county, to see whether a reduced speed limit would curb the number of accidents.

The new speed limit will be trialled on the A361, which runs from Banbury to Daventry, and the A422 through Brackley.

John Spencer, Northamptonshire County Council's casualty reduction partnership manager, said: "We have not seen the details yet and will be interested to look at the Government's proposals more closely.

"In any case we are already looking to pilot reduced 50mph speed limits on two rural A-roads, to determine whether these measures will make a meaningful difference to the number of road collisions rather than simply introduce a blanket scheme across the county."

As well as reducing the speed limit on single carriageways, the Department for Transport is also expected to introduce 20mph zones in residential areas, and endorsements of six points for drivers who break the limit by 15mph.



■ **Chief Constable Peter Maddison is leaving the force this summer and said: "You know when it is time to hand over the baton"**

'Time to pass on baton'

CHIEF Constable Peter Maddison will step down from Northamptonshire Police in June and take up a policing role with the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

Mr Maddison, who has been at the helm for six years and has overseen a consistent drop in crime, announced he would leave on June 21 in an email sent to all officers and staff earlier this week.

The 54-year-old took over from Chris Fox in May 2003 and last year signed a contract which would have kept him in the county until May 2010.

However, he has decided to leave early to take up a job with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), working on policing during the London Olympics.

He paid tribute to his colleagues and said whoever took on the role would inherit "a dynamic force" which was committed to continued improvement.

He called being the county's chief constable "a great job", adding: "Yes, you are in the spotlight, and yes, you have to face a certain level of personal criticism which others don't.

"But, frankly, I knew that when I took on the job. I always intended to retire next year and this opportunity came up at fairly short notice."

Shortly after Mr Maddison joined the struggling force, it was put under the control of a Home Office task force, brought in to restructure it and improve performance. In the five years since, crime has dropped by about 20 per cent.

Mr Maddison said: "The introduction of 41 safer community teams has had an enormous impact. If I have one regret, it would be that we didn't make the move to community policing even earlier.

"The numbers were all going in the right direction, with burglaries and robberies down, and we thought that was enough, but it wasn't. Policing is about residents' connection with their police force and I feel we took our eye off the ball in that case."

Of the future, Mr Maddison said: " I believe population growth will continue in the county and that will be in the context of severe cutbacks for public services.

"But whoever takes on the job will come to a dynamic force which still has very strong local roots."

Mr Maddison will work on the ACPO Olympics business area, helping to oversee the £600 million policing operation for the London games in 2012.



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The Week in Numbers



100 million: SURPRISE Britain's Got Talent star, Susan Boyle, is set to break all internet records. Web viewings of her appearance on the ITV talent show have already passed the 100 million mark. The Scottish singer stunned the judges and the audience with her rendition of *I Dreamed A Dream*, and is already favourite to win the competition.



82: POLITICIANS have been criticised in many quarters for increasing the number of days they will be allowed in the summer break. They will begin their recess on July 22 and return to Westminster duties at the end of October ... 82 days later. Some critics believe this is too long a break while the country faces it's biggest financial crisis in decades.

1.73 million: A WORLD War Two Spitfire, which was rescued from a salvage yard, was sold for £1.73 million at auction this week. The Mark IX fighter plane was built in 1944 and sold to the South African Air Force after the war. However it was rescued from a scrapyard and restored and this week sold at the RAF Museum in Hendon, to explorer Steve Brooks.





£3 billion: SUPERMARKET Tesco said it has rung up sales of £1 billion a week and annual profits of more than £3 billion for the first time in its history. The retail giant posted sales of £54.3 billion in the 12 months to February 28, while its underlying pre-tax profits set another milestone, up 8.8 per cent to £3.13 billion.

National and international news SIX DAYS A WEEK in the Chronicle & Echo

Homeless camp moves location



■ **Representatives from Northampton Borough Council inspect the site at Delapre Country Park which had been used by a group of homeless people. It cost around £400 to clear the area of rubbish**

ANOTHER camp has been set up by homeless people in a woodland area of Northampton just days after taxpayers met a £400 clean-up bill for their previous encampment.

Teams of workers from Northampton Borough Council filled two trucks with debris and rubbish from the edge of Delapre Lake in the country park near Brackmills after the Mercury & Citizen's sister paper, the *Chronicle & Echo* exposed the tent settlement last week.

But another campsite has appeared on parkland close to the A45 dual carriageway overlooking Delapre Golf Centre just days after the campers were given notice to leave the land, owned by English Partnerships.

Borough Councillor Brendan Glynane (*Lib Dem, Delapre*) was at the site in Delapre Country Park last week and said: "It has cost about £400 to clear it away but then they have got to dispose of the rubbish.

"People do expect it to be cleared away by the council but that rubbish should not have been left there in the first place.

"If there was a way we could make these people pay, perhaps they should be paying for the clear-up.

"I think we need to monitor the situation down here to make sure if they are here again, they are moved on pretty quickly."

However, since Tuesday, members of the public have contacted the *Chron* about another camp further in the woodland, which is in the grounds of Delapre Abbey.

Pearl Savory, a retired nurse from Hardingstone, said she spotted the tents while she was walking her dog.

She said: "I don't condone these people doing what they are doing. We want people to come down and they are not going to walk down there when they are going to be confronted by people in tents."

The second settlement is less visible, but comprises the same number of tents, with a chair, a camp fire and a bicycle.

Graham Walker, chair of the Friends of Delapre Abbey (FoDA), said spontaneous settlers had been an ongoing problem in the area.

"This has been going on for just over two years. They have never moved, all they were doing is moving from one side of the lake to another," he said.

Meanwhile, Mick Ford from Delapre is organising the annual litter pick around the parkland and spinney in memory of the late campaigner Roy Connell on May 9 from 10am until 4pm starting at the Abbey.

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Cobblers secure £300k new deal

THE spectre of relegation may be looming large over Sixfields, but the Cobblers have secured a record-breaking £300,000 sponsorship deal to help secure the club's immediate financial future.

The three-year extension to the deal with current sponsor Jackson Grundy will see the club pocket a minimum of £100,000 a year, with that figure set to rise if the club is successful on the pitch.

Details of the recession-busting deal are due to be formally unveiled at a press conference at Sixfields today, with the estate agency remaining the main club and shirt sponsor until at least June 2012.

Club chairman David Cardoza said: "Jackson Grundy has been excellent partners of ours in the last two seasons and for them to show an increased level of support and commitment given the current market conditions shows their commitment to supporting not only the club, but also the community of Northampton."

The deal will see Northampton Town continue to wear the Jackson Grundy logo on their playing kit for the next three seasons.

David Jackson, senior partner of Jackson Grundy, said he was confident the deal, agreed at a time when estate agents are feeling the pinch as a result of the credit crunch, would enable the club to develop both on and off the pitch.

He added: "Right from the outset, I was very impressed with the set up at Northampton Town. In particular, the determination and ambition of David Cardoza to drive the club forward. All I have seen in the last two years reinforces that and that is why we are delighted to sign up for this extended period.

"As supporters may know, I am very patriotic about Northampton, being born within a stone's throw of the old County Ground. Indeed, my choice of company colours for Jackson Grundy was influenced by the Cobblers."

The deal is a marked improvement on the current agreement, which is believed to have netted the club £80,000 for each of the past two seasons.

The Cobblers' head of sales and marketing, Abdul Rashid, said: "We were keen to work with Jackson Grundy again. It is a local company, which is likewise keen to continue to work with us and help promote both ourselves and themselves in the community, rather than just have its logo on our shirts.

"Jackson Grundy will take advantage of an enhanced rights package, which includes official status, access to players and ground, branding, hospitality and community initiatives."



■ David Jackson has signed a new deal for Jackson Grundy and Cobblers

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● Saints
● Cobblers
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● Puzzles
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Promotion for ex-midwife



■ Sue Hardy

A FORMER midwife has been appointed at Northampton General Hospital to oversee nurses, maternity and superbugs.

Sue Hardy will become the hospital's director of infection prevention and control.

The role is one of the most high profile at the hospital, as the issues of midwifery staffing levels and infections such as MRSA and C diff are often among patients' main worries.

She said: "This is an exciting and challenging time for NGH.

"I am passionate about providing high quality nursing and midwifery services and proud to be working with staff who are as keen as I am to deliver a first class service to the people."

Mrs Hardy has joined the hospital from Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust, where she was the director of nursing and quality. She qualified as a nurse in 1984, then as a midwife in 1989, and has worked in a number of hospitals around the UK.

Voice of the terraces

Chris Gleadall on Saints | Steve Riches on Cobblers

Only in Thursday's Chronicle & Echo



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Your View

We asked readers – will you be celebrating St George's Day this year?



I'm Irish, so no, I won't be celebrating. I do think it should be a bank holiday though as St Patrick's Day is and it's only fair.
John Cooke, 49, of Abington



I don't celebrate. It's a shame really. I think we should, as it's our traditional saint's celebration but it always seems to be left forgotten..
Jean Trew, 60, from Towcester



I will be working. We should have a bank holiday on St George's Day.
Hugh Molyneaux, of Northampton



Probably not. I would know how to do that. And I think certain groups of people have chosen to use it in a negative way.
Sarah Brown, 35, from Northampton

We asked readers – what item could you not live without?



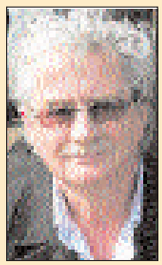
I would never leave home without my keys because then I could not get back in. That would be a problem in this heat.
Freda Jacobs, of Ecton Brook



I can't imagine being without money. I don't think a mobile is important; frankly I could not care less.
Louisa Douglas, of Southfields



I couldn't manage without my car because I'm lazy, if you want the honest truth.
Barry Mawstone, of Eastcote



My car is the one thing I could not manage without because my wife is disabled. It's an absolute lifeline.
Terry Smith, 64, from Kettering



■ A bus was unable to get through Duston Road in Northampton after inconsiderate parking on Saturday. Councillor Terry Wire has called for the county council to introduce resident only parking restrictions on match days

Call for action on match days

RUGBY fans who double park their cars on match days could prevent emergency services from attending a vital incident, it has been claimed.

A residential street near Franklin's Gardens "came to a standstill" at the weekend after a bus was blocked by supporters double-parking their cars whilst attending Saints' Guinness Premiership clash with London Irish.

Some of the passengers on the Stagecoach 9/9A service were forced to get off and walk to another bus stop after the driver was unable to get along Duston Road.

County Councillor Terry Wire *(Lab, St James)* said residents in Duston were "fed up" with the ongoing problem and called for the county council to introduce "residents only" restrictions on match days.

He said: "If that had been a fire appliance, they would have had to bully their way through and damage the cars to get to the incident.

"The residents are fed up with it because they arrive home from the shops and their driveways are blocked.

"This problem could be solved quite easily. Why not make all the streets 'residents only?'"

A sell-out crowd turned out for the Saints' last league home game against London Irish, leaving only the EDF Energy Cup semi-final against Saracens to take place at the ground on Friday, May 1.

Councillor Wire added: "Why don't the supporters use the designated car parks that the Saints provide? It would make life easier for the residents."

A spokesman for the Saints said the club had 1,000 parking spaces that were open early on match days.

He said: "We encourage our supporters to use our match day car parking facility but if they choose not to do so, we encourage them to park appropriately."

A spokeswoman from Northamptonshire County Council said: "We recognise that sports matches can cause an issue with parking in the surrounding areas and we regularly monitor the area during peak times to ensure cars are parking safely and legally."

Residents with concerns about parking can contact the council on Northampton 236236 or email customerservices@northamptonshire.gov.uk"

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Calls over meningitis

EVERY meningitis case should be reported to local authorities as a matter of course following the illness of a Northampton schoolgirl, a senior councillor has said.

A girl who goes to Caroline Chisholm School in Wootton, Northampton, was taken ill at the end of last month with a form of meningitis and was taken to hospital before making a recovery.

But Councillor Andre Gonzales de Savage *(Con, East Hunsbury)*, who is a county council cabinet member and vice chairman of Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish Council, said he is concerned that schools are not made to tell the wider community.

He said: "The best description of what we were told is just about nothing at all. I'm quite appalled about that.

"This is something that could have affected the whole community.

"There should be quite clear policy that schools should have to tell the health authorities whether there is one case or several and that should then be notifiable to the local authority.

"The biggest issue here is that meningitis can be contagious. We would have liked the chance to help tell parents and the community what had happened and which symptoms to look out for."

The responsibility for notifying the authorities normally rests with the doctor or hospital which treats the patient.

If only one case is detected then schools are not expected to notify Northamptonshire County Council, the local education authority, or the national Health Protection Agency.

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Puzzles

TELEVISION Quiz

1. Tom Payne stars as George Best in *Best: His Mother's Son*, which will screen on BBC Two on Sunday. Which BBC One school drama, also starring Angela Griffin, did Tom appear in?

2. Kate Garraway presents *The Biggest Loser*, which begins on ITV1 on Monday. Which professional dancer was she paired with in the fifth series of *Strictly Come Dancing*?

3. Kids TV presenter Kirsten O'Brien features in BBC Three documentary *Kirsten's Topless Ambition* next Friday. What is the name of the art show she presents?

4. Martin Freeman and Rachael Stirling star in new ITV1 comedy *Boy Meets Girl*, which begins next Friday. What was the name of the sitcom Freeman starred in alongside Peter Serafinowicz and Corrie's Reg Holdsworth, Ken Morley?

5. Cast your mind back. Stephen Fry guest stars in an episode of *Bones*, which can be seen on Sky 1 next Thursday. What was the name of the character he played in *Blackadder Goes Forth*?

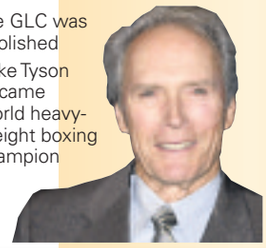
WHAT year is this?

1 Clint Eastwood (pictured) became Mayor of Carmel

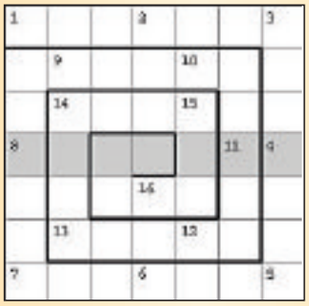
2 The Space Shuttle Challenger exploded on take-off

3 The GLC was abolished

4 Mike Tyson became world heavyweight boxing champion



WORD Spiral



Starting from 1, fill in the grid in a clockwise direction. The last letter of each four-letter answer is the first letter of the next word. A correct grid will reveal a seven-letter key word. **CLUES:** 1. Male deer 2. Equipment 3. Tumult 4. Ribbon 5. Fencing sword 6. Simple 7. Period of time 8. Intense anger 9. Australian birds 10. Indian dress 11. Mosque prayer leader 12. Repast 13. Plant part 14. Jumping insect 15. Adjoin 16. Wheel surround. **Key word clue:** Food

ANSWERS:

WORD SPIRAL – 1. Stag 2. Gear 3. Riot 4. Tape 5. Epee 6. Easy 7. Year 8. Rage 9. Emus 10. Sari 11. Imam 12. Meal 13. Leaf 14. Flea 15. Abut 16. Tyre. Key word solution: RAREBIT

WHAT YEAR? 1986

TELEVISION QUIZ – 1. Waterloo Road; 2. Anton Du Beke; 3. Smart; 4. Hardware; 5. General Melchett

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11.40am, 2.30, 5.20, 8.20

THE UNINVITED 15
(11.00am except **Sa-Su**), 1.00, 3.00, 5.10, 7.15, 9.30

OBSERVE AND REPORT 15
(12.20 except **Sa-Su**), 2.30, 4.40, 7.00, 9.20

I LOVE YOU, MAN 15
(11.10am **F, M-Tu only**), (1.40, 4.00, 6.30 except **W-Th**), 9.10

CRANK HIGH VOLTAGE 18
9.00 except **W-Th**

IN THE LOOP 15
(6.15 except **W-Th**), (8.50 except **Tu-Th**)

FAST & FURIOUS 12A Contains strong violence
10.50am, 1.10, 3.30, 6.00, 8.40

17 AGAIN 12A Contains moderate sex references and language
10.50am, 1.15, 3.45, 6.10, 8.30

RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN PG
11.00am, 1.30, 4.00 except **W-Th**

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D PG
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PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS - Beware of Hidden Costs

"I recently settled a claim for a farmer who had suffered an injury to the muscles at the base of his back in an accident," said Jason Claridge, partner at Ward and Rider Solicitors.

"Both parties representatives instructed their own medical experts who agreed that the accident had accelerated symptoms of a previous condition by about four years. As a result of this accident and the injuries he suffered, he struggled to do the heavier manual tasks that he used to do around his farm. He also had problems doing some of his day-to-day household chores and relied initially on his son and daughter-in-law to help him and then, after that, on his brother and housekeeper to assist him.

"As a result of his inability to do the heavier manual tasks on his farm, he had to employ a farm labourer. The cost to him was £15,500 per year. At the time of his accident he was selling part of his farm for residential development to a company of property developers. He had intended to invest this money but because of the state of his back, he had to purchase equipment that helped him with some of the lifting that ordinarily he would have done himself without any mechanical assistance.

"The award for the back injury was £7,500. However the larger amounts were generated by the fact that he had to employ a labourer to help him on his farm four years earlier than he would otherwise have done had the accident not have happened; that he needed help from his family and the housekeeper four years earlier than he would have done had the accident not occurred; and that he lost interest on his investment. The bulk of the assistance from his family and housekeeper came in the months immediately after the accident when he was incapacitated. We averaged this out over a four-year period at around five hours help per week. We claimed a non-commercial rate of £4.50 per hour.

"In addition to claiming four years of salary for the farm labourer at £15,500 per year, we also claimed for the loss of opportunity of investment for him and claimed for an amount which would represent what we considered to be a fair return from a higher rate interest account on the money that he would have invested, had he had not have had the accident.

"Our argument was simple. That without the assistance of a farm labourer and without purchasing these items to help him around the farm with tasks that previously he would do himself manually, his business would have gone into terminal decline and he would have to cease trading.

"We did accept that at some point as he grew older he would need help in any event, but the argument which was accepted by the medical experts was that the situation had been accelerated by around four years. He ultimately settled for £80,000 which was made up as follows:

1. Injuries £7,500
2. Cost of employing Farm Labourer £62,000
3. Help and Assistance with domestic chores £4,680
4. Loss of interest on investment due to lifting equipment having to be purchased earlier than otherwise would have been the case £5,820

TOTAL £80,000

"We, at Ward and Rider Solicitors, believe in investigating claims to ensure that clients' compensation is maximised. Often claims which appear on the surface to be straight forward can, in fact, with some investigation show that the financial consequences of the injury for the individual claiming can be quite devastating. It is always important to explore every angle in such a claim to ensure that clients are compensated.

"Ward and Rider Solicitors have 14 lawyers who are dedicated to dealing with personal injury claims. We believe wholly in investigating claims fully before they are settled. We offer a 'no fee, win or lose' scheme so that our clients are protected from any costs of bringing claims.".

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Letters

Variety of music nights

IN the last 10 days, I have been to see and hear three musical events, the first of which was *The Sound Of Music* at Spinney Hill Hall, the second was Lesley's Dancers at Hackleton village hall and the last was *Olivet To Calvary* at Park Avenue Methodist Church.

At all of these shows, not only were the vocal soloists and dancers excellent, but also the supporting singers and artistes. Congratulations to everyone who took part.

I should add that, at Spinney Hill Hall, it was a joy to be in an auditorium where eating and drinking were prohibited.

Rosemary Leonard, Northampton

Where is the demand?

TODAY we received our glass recycling box and with it came a leaflet to explain how and when to use it.

It mentioned that the boxes were in response to the demand from people to recycle glass.

I, and everyone I know, have not been asked, so I wonder who these mythical people are?

These boxes come to the detriment of green waste recycling because now the brown bins only get emptied every four weeks.

In our house we have very little glass waste, so little in fact that I have found a convenient nail in the garage to hang the box from to make a nice home for spiders.

What annoys me is that this council seems to think that everyone's house has unlimited space to accommodate all these bins and boxes and if your house looks like a recycling centre then that's okay.

Why can't they look at other areas in the country that recycle everything including glass, but manage to send round lorries that can collect more than one thing at a time? If this was to happen, then the green waste could be collected on a more regular basis.

It will be interesting to see when the scheme starts as to how many people leave glass out to be recycled. I won't be one of them.

Because of the assumption that everyone has lots of glass to be recycled, then it seems to me a lot more people will be making trips to the dump to get rid of their excess green waste, which seems counterproductive in saving energy and the planet.

I just find it very annoying that the council implements these schemes without consulting council tax payers first.

Mr B Mitchell, Willow Rise, Little Billing, Northampton.

Appeal to join group

SHIPMANS Forces Aid was founded in October 2008.

We are a voluntary, not-for-profit group which raises money for the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes.

We are building up for our big Christmas raffle and would welcome donations from individuals, groups and companies.

If anyone would like to join our group please give me a call and I will give you dates for our meetings.

We are an informal group, but we do raise money for our fallen and heroes and have fun in the process.

We would also wish to thank the *Chronicle & Echo* for its support, Kall Kwik in Abington Street and Ms T Shortland of Semilong for the computer!

Paul Scully, Secretary, Shipmans Forces Aid, Northampton. Tel 077605 093524

Send us your views

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Appeal for a marquee

A CANCER charity in Northamptonshire has made an urgent appeal to find a mini-marquee for its annual sponsored walk at Althorp on Sunday.

Last-minute preparations are underway for A Walk in the Park, which aims to raise £20,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support, and a second marquee is needed to help volunteers register walkers at the event. Anyone who can help with a marquee, or would like to take part in A Walk in the Park can contact Lisa Donald at Macmillan on Northampton 647532.

Launch for cycle event



THE committee behind the annual Cycle for Cynthia bike ride is hoping to defy the recession and raise a record-breaking amount for two cancer charities in Northamptonshire.

Fund-raisers from Cynthia Spencer Hospice and Macmillan Cancer Support have set a target of £40,000 to beat last year's total. And they challenged supporters to spread the word to attract 1,000 cyclists.

At the launch of the event at Franklin's Gardens in Northampton, Sue Bownass, from the Friends of Cynthia Spencer, said: "The sky is the limit this year.

"These two charities are very deserving causes and it is going to be bigger and better this year.

"What we are asking is please tell everybody about this event."

Last year, hundreds of people cycled five, 25 or 50 miles from the Saints' rugby stadium. They raised £34,000 for Cynthia Spencer Hospice and Macmillan Cancer Support.

The cyclists who crossed the line first in each route picked up their trophies from John Pinkham, chair of the organising committee, at a presentation and event launch on Monday.

Mr Pinkham, who launched the first Cycle for Cynthia bike ride six years ago, said: "To reach our target, we will need more support than ever before, both in terms of the numbers of people entering and the sponsorship cyclists raise.

"We will need individuals, families, businesses and organisations from across the county to take part."

Ron Rutgers, one of the 50-mile prize winners, said he hoped to enter a bigger team this year and challenged other mountain bike teams to sign up.

The committee also unveiled its latest recruit – former BBC Radio Northampton breakfast show presenter Anna Murby – who said she was delighted to join Cycle for Cynthia after experiencing the crucial work of Macmillan nurses, who cared for her mother before she died.

Cycle for Cynthia 2009 takes place on Sunday, September 27 from Franklin's Gardens, where there will again be five, 25- and 50-mile routes.

Event entry forms are available online at www.cycle4cynthia. co.uk or from Sue Bownass from the Friends of Cynthia Spencer on Northampton 678088 or Lisa Donald from Macmillan on Northampton 647532.Businesses that would like to support the event can also email Anna Murby at annamurby@hotmail.com

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Minister meets Muslims

A CONTROVERSIAL Government grant designed to prevent terrorism, which angered members of Northampton's Muslim community has been defended by the Community Cohesion Minister.

Labour MP Sadiq Khan also praised the £450,000 redevelopment of the town's biggest mosque during his visit to the area yesterday, but admitted a larger facility was needed.

It is estimated there are between 8,000 and 10,000 Muslims in Northampton, from 26 countries.

Earlier this month, it was revealed the Government had awarded Northampton £315,000 to help "prevent extreme terrorism" because of the town's large Muslim population.

The move was criticised by members of the Muslim community, who said there had never been any links between the town and terrorism.

But Mr Khan, who has responsibility for preventing violent extremism, defended the grant.

He said: "I don't think it's a mistake to invest in local communities and it's for the communities to decide how they want to use the money. It's about investing in people."

During his visit to the Central Mosque in Abington Avenue, he praised members of the Muslim community for raising the money to convert the former garage into a place of worship.

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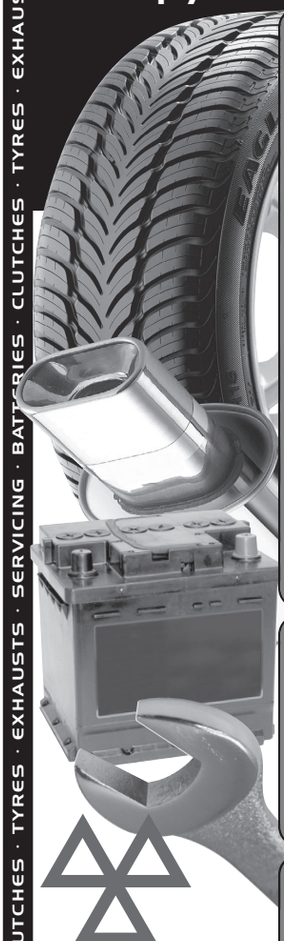
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New pay deal to help foster carers

A NEW pay deal means foster carers in Northamptonshire will receive an average 25 per cent more this year for looking after vulnerable children.

A foster carer who is looking after three teenage children and has reached the top of their professional development can now earn almost £58,000 for providing a loving home to youngsters in their care.

Under the new Northamptonshire County Council pay rates, a person who has one child over the age of 11 years old and is gaining professional qualifications, can earn £19,203 a year. Foster carers can take a maximum of three children.

The authority, which currently has about 600 children in foster care, says it still needs to find more people to come forward to take on what remains a "challenging, but rewarding" role.

The county council will be backing next month's National Fostering Care Fortnight where the focus will once again be on publicising the need to recruit foster carers.

Two years ago the campaign led to the creation of a nationally recognised training scheme to support the future development of foster carers.

As a result of the introduction of these standards, new skills level payments, which are now paid per child to reflect the commitment needed.

Cabinet member for children and young people, Councillor Joan Kirkbride, said: "Foster carers do a very demanding, but rewarding job, and this pay increase reflects our commitment to them and the hard work they do. By fostering, the carer knows they are giving a child or young person a stable home environment and a chance to fulfil their potential."

To find out more about fostering in Northamptonshire, call Northampton 236623 or visit www.northamptonshire.gov.uk



■ Joan Kirkbride

Inspector revealed

THE police team for the north of Northampton has revealed its latest recruit to replace the outgoing inspector for the area.

Insp Fay Tennet, who spent last year with the National Police Improvement Agency in London, will take over from Insp Chris Hillery in the area, which covers Kingsthorpe, St David's, Kingsley, Eastfield, Headlands and Boughton Green.

Insp Tennet was previously based at Weston Favell police station, as an emergency responder.







Urban farm opening

MEMBERS of a project to set up an urban farm in Northampton attracted the crowds to their open day on the land off Towcester Road in Delapre.

The Northampton Urban Farm Project committee, which is dedicated to saving the land from development, had stalls, exhibitions and children's face painting there to show the community what they could do with the 12-acre plot.

The committee also has plans to provide outdoor resources for school children and farming schemes for the community.

More information about the project's plans is available online at www.nufp.org.uk.



■ Valley Stores in Valley Road, Little Billing

Robbers threaten assistant

A SHOP assistant was confronted by robbers armed with a metal bar in a raid on a Northampton store.

Three men stormed into the Valley Stores in Valley Road, Little Billing, and threatened their victim before making off with cash and cigarettes.

The victim, who asked not to be named, said: "It isn't a pleasant thing to happen while you're at work, but it isn't a regular occurrence and I think it was a one-off.

"We closed the shop for about three hours while the police were here but then re-opened again, because the residents living round here need their local shop.

"The men seemed like a very organised and professional group. I wasn't hurt at all, just a bit shaken up."

A spokesman for Northamptonshire Police said the force was appealing for witnesses who may have seen the men drive off in a dark-coloured, possibly green, Rover 25 following the robbery, which took place at about 9.30am on Saturday.

He said: "Three men ran into the store, one carrying a metal bar, before threatening the shopkeeper. They then stole a quantity of cash and cigarettes.

"They were all dressed in dark clothing and approached the store from the direction of Little Billing. The main offender was aged about 25, about 5ft 7in, of an athletic build.

"He spoke with a Northamptonshire accent and wore a hooded top with the hood up, black jogging bottoms, thin black gloves and black trainers.

"He wore a dark stocking over his head and a thin black scarf covered the bottom of his face. He was carrying the metal bar.

"The other two offenders were both male, wearing gloves, aged about 25, about 5ft 7in to 5ft 8in and spoke with Northamptonshire accents."

Witnesses can call police on 08453 700700 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

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Hair loss can occur in your teens or later in life but if you value the way you look then it needs to be sorted. At the Hair Care Studio they provide a free, personalised and discreet consultation with our friendly, knowledgeable consultants who will determine the best hair loss treatment for you.
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REFURBISHED rooms are available for rent, including all utility bills, in various areas close to Northampton town centre, Abington, Kingsthorpe, and the Wellingborough Road.

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£460 pcm



KINGSTHORPE HOLLOW

A 3 Bedroom victorian terrace. Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Downstairs shower room. 2 Double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom. Gas central heating and double glazing. Rear garden.

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THE MOUNTS

A 2 Bed terrace house walking distance to the town centre. Gas central heating and double glazing. 2 Good size Double bedrooms, Available unfurnished.

£495 pcm



WEST HUNSBURY

A 2 bedroom semi with allocated parking, gas central heating and double glazing. Lounge/Diner, Fitted kitchen. 2 Double bedrooms. Newly fitted bathroom with electric shower over the bath. Enclosed rear garden.

£495 pcm



DUSTON

A 2 Bedroom end terrace with front and rear gardens and off road parking. Fitted kitchen, Lounge/Diner, 2 Bedrooms, Family bathroom with a shower over the bath. Available Unfurnished.

£500 pcm



CHERRY LODGE

A 3 bedroom semi detached house with driveway parking and a single garage. Recently had new carpets and been decorated throughout. Gas central heating and double glazing. 2 Double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom. Unfurnished.

£500 pcm



FAR COTTON

A 3 bedroom terrace with double glazing and gas central heating. Lounge/Diner, Kitchen with appliances, 2 Double and 1 single bedroom. Bathroom with a shower over the bath. Enclosed rear garden.

£500 pcm



ST JAMES

A Lovely 2 bedroom terrace in a cul-de-sac. 2 Double bedrooms, large bathroom wiith a shower over the bath. Lounge/Diner, Kitchen with a cooker. Courtyard rear garden. Unfurnished.

£525 pcm



BUGBROOKE

A 2 Bed maisonette in popular village location available with allocated parking , and gardens. Lounge/Diner, bathroom, fitted kitchen, 2 Bedrooms.

£525 pcm



WEST HUNSBURY

A 2 Bedroom link detached house with driveway parking and rear garden in a cul-de-sac. 2 Reception rooms, 2 Bedrooms and a bathroom with a shower over the bath. Unfurnished.

£550 pcm



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PALMERSTONE ROAD

A 2 bedroom flat in the town centre with parking. Available either Furnished or Unfurnished. 2 Double bedrooms. Bathroom with a power shower. Good condition, lovely modern flat.

£575 pcm



GRANGE PARK

A 3 Bedroom semi detached with driveway and a single garage. Gas central heating and double glazing. 2 Double bedrooms and 1 single, cloakroom and family bathroom. Unfurnished.

£645 pcm



ABINGTON

A Lovely 3 bedroom terrace house with rear garden in good condition. 2 Reception rooms, Kitchen, Utility room. 3 Bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Enclosed rear garden.

£650 pcm



KINGSLEY

A Large 3 bed terrace with a double garage and rear garden. Lounge, Dining room, Large Kitchen/Diner. Cellar, Cloakroom, 3 Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with a shower. Many original features, good condition throughout. Unfurnished.

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ABINGTON VALE

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£795 pcm



WOOTTON FIELDS

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HUNSBURY MEADOWS £1,595 pcm

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- Unfurnished four/five bedroom dormer style property
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, breakfast room
- Gardens to the front and rear



BUGBROOKE £1,000 pcm

- Unfurnished three bedroom detached period cottage
- Cloakroom, sitting room, dining room and bathroom
- Outside there are gardens and ample off road parking



BILLING LANE £795 pcm

- Unfurnished four bedroom detached family home
- Cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, ensuite
- Outside there are pleasant and well tended gardens



TRINITY HOLLOW £695 pcm

- Unfurnished three bedroom three storey house
- Lounge/diner, kitchen, three bedrooms, ensuite,
- Outside there is reserved parking and gardens



ABINGTON £695 pcm

- Furnished two bedroom house formerly part of a factory
- Open plan living area, cloakroom, two double bedrooms, ensuite
- Patio garden and allocated parking space



FAR COTTON £595 pcm

- Unfurnished three bedroom Victorian terrace
- Lounge/dining room, kitchen and bathroom
- Outside there are gardens to the front and rear



ABINGTON £575 pcm

- Unfurnished one bedroom apartment
- Open plan living room, luxury kitchen and bathroom
- Outside there is reserved off road parking



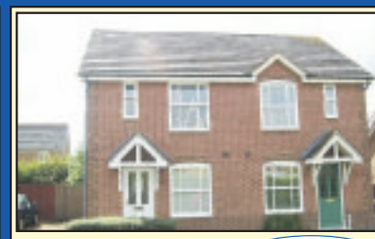
CLIFTONVILLE £560 pcm

- Unfurnished two bedroom duplex apartment
- Close to the town centre and General Hospital
- Off road parking



QUEENS PARK £550 pcm

- Unfurnished two bedroom Victorian terraced house
- Lounge/dining room, kitchen and a bathroom
- Outside there is an enclosed rear garden



EAST HUNSBURY £540 pcm

- Unfurnished two bedroom semi detached house
- Hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and a shower room
- Outside there is an enclosed rear garden and parking



HARPOLE £525 pcm

- Unfurnished one bedroom semi detached house
- Lounge/diner, luxury kitchen, large bedroom
- Outside are attractive gardens and ample off road parking



KINGSTHORPE £505 pcm

- Unfurnished one bedroom terraced cottage
- Overlooks Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground
- Gardens to front and rear



TOWN CENTRE £495 pcm

- Unfurnished one bedroom ground floor flat
- Close to the town centre
- Secure and reserved parking



SOUTHBRIDGE £475 pcm

- Unfurnished two bedroom apartment close to the town centre
- Sitting/dining room, kitchen with appliances
- Outside is reserved car parking



ABINGTON £475 pcm

- Unfurnished refurbished one bedroom first floor flat
- Close to the town centre and General Hospital
- Lounge, kitchen with dining area, bathroom



TOWN CENTRE £450 pcm

- Unfurnished one bedroom apartment
- Contemporary factory conversion
- Open plan living/kitchen area with appliances



ALDBURY MEWS £425 pcm

- Furnished one bedroom flat close to town centre
- Spacious lounge, luxury kitchen, bedroom and bathroom
- Outside are communal gardens and allocated parking



LITTLE BILLING £375 pcm

- Unfurnished one bedroom cluster home
- Lounge, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom
- Outside there is a small communal garden and parking bay



ABINGTON £350 pcm

- Unfurnished one bedroom ground floor flat
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- Outside there is a small rear garden

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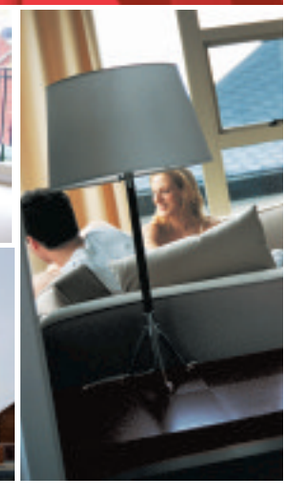
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Public Notices

EURO SCAFFOLDING LIMITED
Company No. 04216462

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at King William House 46 Harper Street Bedford MK40 2QT on 24/04/2009 at 2.30 pm for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act. A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the offices of Bridge Business Recovery LLP, 3rd Floor 39-45 Shaftesbury Ave London W1D 6LA on the two business days immediately preceding the meeting between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm. The resolutions at the meeting of creditors may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the liquidators are to be remunerated. The meeting may receive information about, or be asked to approve the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting. Dated 27/03/2009
THOMAS SWANNELL, Director

T255818

Public Notices

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

CAWSTON CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

(In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation)

Notice is hereby given that David Halstead Bottomley of Bottomley & Co, Glenwood House, 5 Arundel Way, Cawston, Rugby, Warwickshire CV22 7TU was appointed Liquidator of the said company on 17 April 2009. Creditors of the above named company are required on or before 31 May 2009, to send in their names and addresses, particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any), to David Halstead Bottomley, Bottomley & Co, Glenwood House, 5 Arundel Way, Cawston, Rugby, Warwickshire CV22 7TU the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

David Halstead Bottomley *Liquidator*

20 April 2009

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KINGSTHORPE, 3 BED £600pcm
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LITTLE BILLING, 3 BED £600pcm
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Special thanks to Candy Baker.



Asia and David GARRETT
Are pleased to announce the safe arrival of a Son
Robert Stefan
Born on April 10th, weighing 8lbs 5ozs.
A Brother for Amy.
Thanks to all concerned.



Freya PICKFORD
Born on 10th April, weighing 6lbs 6oz.
Proud Parents Kelly Brewin and Chris Pickford announce the safe arrival of their beautiful baby daughter.





ALLAN & HAYLEY WHEATLEY & BAKER
Congratulations to you both on the birth of your Son
Harry Daniel.
Our first Grandchild born 15th April weighing 10 lbs.
Love from Nanny Jayne and Pappy Jim.
x



Birthdays

Charly Whitestone

Happy 12th birthday Princess

Sorry I can't be there today, but you're always in my thoughts.

All my love Dad.
XXX





18th Birthday

Lauren MELAY-BROWN



Happy 18th Birthday Lauren
Lots of love
Mum, Dad, Hollie, Faith, Brodie
Hope you have a good one!



Lauren MELAY-BROWN
Congratulations Lauren on your 18th Birthday
Lots of love
Nan & Pap
Uncles & Aunts:-
Steven, Kay, Rachel, Robert, Claire & Cousins Jordan, Connor, Eden, Harry, Shannon, Luke
Kayleigh & Vinnie.
Have a lovely time in town Saturday night!





Katie PERRY

Happy 18th Birthday Katie
With lots of love
Mum, Carly, Gemma & Meg
XXXX

50th Birthday



NIGEL EDWARDS



(Lofty)
Happy 50th.
Love from Lorraine, Laura, Hayley, James and families.



Phil JEYES



50 Today.
Happy Birthday.
Love Shaz & Daniel
x x

WATTS Sarah
Happy 50th! Hope you have a lovely birthday and enjoy your party! Love you loads Phil, Soph, Jo and all the family xxx



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60th Birthday



Caterina BRADSHAW



We all love you very much & want to wish you a very Happy 60th Birthday. Lots of love from all your family

60th Birthday



NIGEL JONES

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70th Birthday

Robbie HOGAN
Congratulations Buddy on reaching "The Japanese 70th" Love and best wishes always. From all the family xxx



Engagements

CURTIS WARREN
Stan and Veronica are delighted to announce the Engagement between their Daughter Larissa & Benjamin, Son of Geoff and Ange Warren on Easter Sunday April 12th. Love and Congratulations



Diamond Wedding

Jean & Don GRAY
Congratulations to you both on your Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Lots of love from Jen, Alan, Ann and John.
x



In Memoriam

ABBOTT — Mabel. Loving memories of our loving Mother and Kathy will last forver. God bless. Love Tony and Sheila.

ENGLAND Ryan
Died 20th April 2007.
Two years have passed since that tragic day, but the hurt is still there.
We love and miss you every day Ryan.
Your loving Mum and Dad.
Beloved Brother of Lee, Natalie and families.

HACKNEY David
Passed away 1 year ago today.
Sadly missed by all the family and thought of every day.
Love from Sister Christine.
x x

INGLE Marjorie (Cis)
Passed away April 19th 2003.
The years add up when you left, But memories of you are the best.
Love Lesley
x x

KENT — Walter. Happy memories Dad. love Pete, Maureen, Richard and Christine.

STRUDWICK
(Roade)
In loving memory of my dear Mother Eliza Strudwick who passed away April 21st 1987. Also my dear Father William Thomas Strudwick who passed away November 20th 1968.
Silent memories keep you near,
As time unfolds another year.
No longer in our lives to share,
But in our hearts you are always there.
Remembering you always.
Your loving Son Tommy and family.

Birthday Memories

DAGG Betty
Remembering you on your Birthday Mum.
We will miss celebrating this special day with you, but will be thinking of you as we do everyday.
Love from Husband Ken.
Daughter Maureen.
Son Michael x x x

DAGG Betty
Remembering our dear Mum and Nan on her 77th Birthday.
With love always.
Daughter Kathleen & Granddaughter Michelle
x x

DILLON David
22nd April.
46th Birthday.
Dave, if we could send a card today for your 46th birthday the message would say "If once in a lifetime a dream could come true, Our wish would be - To have you still."
A prayer, A thought and many tears from us who loved you so very dear.
We love you more than words can say, We miss you more and more each day.
Your loving Mum and Dad
xxx

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NEWS at a glance

The spread of road rage

ALMOST three in five motorists have been the victims of road rage in the past year, it was revealed today.

And about six per cent have either been victims of carjacking, or know someone who has been carjacked, a survey from Sainsbury's Car Insurance found.

Based on responses from 2,011 people, the poll also showed that men aged 18-24 were most vulnerable to road rage, with 69 per cent having been victims.

Those aged over 65 had experienced the least number of incidents and were least likely to get aggressive themselves.

Tailgating was the bad driving habit most likely to lead to road rage, followed by poor judgment when pulling out of a junction, changing lanes without indicating and driving too slowly.

Even over-revving at traffic lights was likely to spark rage among some motorists.

Those in south-west England were most likely to be road rage victims, while Welsh motorists were least likely to encounter behind-the-wheel aggression.

Joanne Mallon, head of Sainsbury's Car Insurance, said: "A worrying number of motorists have unfortunately suffered from road rage or carjacking and the result can be both mentally and physically scarring for the victims."

Bringing six appeal to the original hot hatch

BEFORE Volkswagen dreamed up the Golf GTI, there was no such thing as a hot hatchback.

Now the phrase has entered everyday parlance and virtually any manufacturer that has a hatchback also has a hot one . . . or a warm one at the very least.

It was 1973 when the original GTI was born and since then, through six generations and with the help of its countless imitators, it has brought performance, handling and fun to the masses on an unprecedented scale. The current GTI is the mark six and by rights, it should be the best yet.

The imperious 2.0-litre TSI petrol engine that powered the MkV Golf GTI appears again in the sixth generation car. The maximum power output is 207bhp, a 10bhp increase over the previous model and as before, the turbocharged engine piles on its acceleration in a beautifully smooth and progressive manner.

That peak power is achieved between 5,300 and 6,200rpm but the maximum torque of 279Nm is generated constantly between 1,700 and 5,200 rpm. The upshot is that while you're idling at the traffic lights, 62mph is just 6.9 seconds away and assuming you're not on a public road, a top speed of 149mph is attainable.

Getting the most out of an engine like the 2.0-litre TSI in a front-wheel drive hatchback is a tricky engineering task but Volkswagen's men in white coats didn't shrink from the challenge. The basic suspension set-up mirrors that of standard Golf models. Elsewhere, however, the changes are far-reaching.

The springs and dampers have been completely re-tuned to deliver the focused driving experience the GTI is known for, lowering the ride height by 22mm at the front and 15mm at the rear. There are stiffer anti-roll bars to keep the Golf flat through fast corners and Volkswagen's Adaptive Chassis Control technology lets the driver select Comfort, Normal or Sport modes according to their mood.

The ACC system electronically adjusts the throttle response, steering assistance and damper settings to affect the way the car drives but perhaps the most significant feature on the MkVI GTI is the XDS electronic differential. This uses the traction and stability control systems to help the front wheels deploy the GTI's power more effectively.

The Golf GTI revels in its status as the founding father of the hot hatchback genre and it isn't about to lower itself by indulging in the lurid colour schemes and tea-tray spoilers favoured by its lower brow rivals.

Therefore, its looks are comparatively low key and classy, much like a standard model but with a soupcon of extra aggression bubbling under the surface.

Buyers have two gearboxes and two bodystyles at their disposal when specifying their Golf GTI. Both three-door and five-door versions are available, with the former sporting slightly more dynamic looks and the latter offering more by way of practicality.

The standard transmission is a six-speed manual but Volkswagen's acclaimed DSG twin-clutch gearbox is also available for a £1,200 premium, complete with wheel-mounted paddle shifters. The GTI specification includes dual-zone climate control ESP stability control, ABS brakes and seven airbags, including a driver's knee airbag.

In fifth generation form, the Golf GTI regained its legendary status and it was the role of this car, version number six, to build upon that without rocking the boat. It looks to have been successful with the same electric blend of pace, balance and grand touring comfort packed beneath the Golf's unassuming interior.

Steve Walker





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Tel: 07817 292861 01604 763990

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£1650

Tel: 01604 404571

HAMILTONS

Vauxhall Corsa, 1.0 12V Comfort, 2000, X reg, new shape, only 49,000 miles, full service history, lady owned, power steering, sunroof, e/windows, r/c/locking, e/mirrors, stereo, air bag, metallic silver. Superb only £2495

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Peugeot 106 Zest 3 Diesel, 5 dr, 1998, S reg, only 52,000 miles, FSH, only 2 owners. Met blue, p/steering, e/windows, c/locking, sunroof, cd, MoT April 2010, very low running cost. Only £1695

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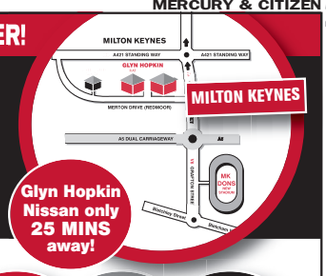
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Renault Laguna 1.9 DCi Expression Sport Tourer 2002 52 reg, only 85,000 miles, FSH, met blue, PAS, air con, 6 speed, e/w, c/l, alloys, roof rails, Mot Sept 09, immaculate only £2895

Citroen Xsara 2.0 HDi SX Diesel 2002 02 reg, 1 private owner, only 72,000 miles, FSH, met blue, PAS, air con, alloys, cd, e/w, c/l, Mot April 2010 only £2895

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Peugeot 406 2.0 HDi Diesel GLX 110 2002 52 reg, only 36,000 miles, FSH, 2 owners, met silver, PAS, air con, alloys, cd, e/w, c/l, very low miles only £3495

Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Limited Edition Graphite, 2003 52 reg 1 private owner, only 84,000 miles, FSH, met grey, PAS, air con, cd, alloys, e/w, c/l, Mot Jan 2010 only £3295

Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Zetec 2004 53 reg, 1 prev owner, only 63,000 miles, FSH, met silver, PAS, air con, alloys, traction, cruise control, 6 speed, e/w c/l, Mot Feb 2010, Immaculate only £3995

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Volkswagen Polo 1.4CL

T reg, MoT Aug 09, tax Aug 09, 54K, excellent condition NO AGENCIES

£1600 ono

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Volvo 940 Estate

M reg, 2.3, 12 months MoT, no tax, radio/cassette, galvanised body, VGC

£750 ovno

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VW Polo

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Northamptonshire Newspapers
Upper Mounts
Northampton
NN1 3HR

Tel: (01604) 467000
Fax: (01604) 467230

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Closing Date: 4th May 2009

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We require Registered General Nurses to be responsible for the assessment, planning, delivery and evaluation of a high standard of patient care. Post registration experience in surgical nursing is essential, HDU skills are desirable.

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If you are interested in joining us but want to work flexible hours to suit your needs, we also have Bank vacancies available across the following areas:

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The Role - You will be responsible for devising, developing and delivering a range of marketing initiatives for all membership and business services. You will need to be a hands-on proactive manager providing marketing support from design, copywriting and proof reading through to the delivery of advertising plans and fully developed projects. This is a role which covers the full range of the marketing mix.

The Person - The successful applicant will be an experienced marketing professional with relevant marketing and communication skills. Degree standard education or equivalent professional experience is essential, a good negotiator, with an excellent eye for detail. If you have a positive and helpful attitude, are able to work as part of a team and on your own initiative to meet tight deadlines we would like to hear from you.

Benefits - Salary £26,000.00 per annum for a 35 hour week, 26 days holiday and a defined contribution pension scheme.

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If you are interested in either of these full time roles which are based in Corby and you have the necessary skills and experience please send your CV accompanied by a covering letter or e mail to:

Angela Burton, PA/Office Manager, CILT(UK), Earlstrees Court, Earlstrees Road, Corby, Northants, NN17 4AX or email to: angela.burton@ciltuk.org.uk.

Please enclose details of current salary and availability and if you need further information or a full job description, visit our web site: www.ciltuk.org.uk/appointments or contact Angela Burton on 01536 740133.

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Vettell seals Red Bull glory

Red Bull Formula One driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany celebrated victory in a rainswept Chinese Formula One Grand Prix at the Shanghai International Circuit on Sunday

Sport

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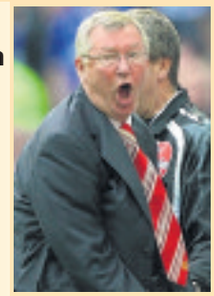
The past week in headlines

At-a-glance sport...



Drogba puts Blues through

Sat, Apr 18 – Didier Drogba struck a late winner as Chelsea reached the FA Cup final with a 2-1 win over Arsenal



Fergie dream is over

Sun, Apr 19 – Sir Alex Ferguson paid the price for fielding a weakened team as Manchester Utd lost to Everton in the FA Cup semi final, ending their five-trophy dream.



Ebdon bows out at Crucible

Tues, Apr 22 – Ex-Wellingborough snooker player Peter Ebdon bowed out of the World Championships when he lost to Nigel Bond.

Murray is delighted by Lions' selection

SAINTS prop Euan Murray said it was a 'really special' moment in his career when he was told he had been selected for the British & Irish Lions.

The in-form Scot was part of a 37-man squad chosen by Lions' head coach Ian McGeechan and his staff to take on world champions South Africa over three Tests and on a tour that includes seven other games.

It starts with a clash with a Highveld XV, an invitational side, on May 30, with the first Test not until June 20 the 60,000 ABSA Park Stadium in Durban. There are six games until the first Test for Murray to stake his claim for a place in the Test starting line-up.

But for now, just being part of the 120-year history of the Lions, is enough for Murray.

"I hadn't heard about the Lions until I started playing rugby in 1991, when I was 11," said Murray, who joined Saints from Glasgow two seasons ago. "To get into professional rugby after that, play for my country and get to this stage where I've been selected for a South Africa tour has been really special."

Saints completed their home Guinness Premiership fixtures last Saturday with a 21-17 win over London Irish, and hope to secure European rugby next season with another victory this weekend.

They travel to Edgeley Park to face Sale Sharks on Saturday for a 3pm kick-off.

The following Friday they entertain Saracens in the semi-final of the European Challenge Cup at the Gardens (7.45pm).

Town closer to league survival



■ Adebayo Akinfenwa goes in for a challenge on Scunthorpe keeper Joe Murphy

COBBLERS' battle for Coca-Cola League One survival could be sealed this Saturday if they can beat already-relegated Hereford and other results go their way.

Northampton Town boss Stuart Gray watched his team escape from the drop zone on goal difference courtesy of a 3-3 draw with play-off chasing Scunthorpe at Sixfields on Tuesday night.

And if they can beat Hereford – and both Crewe and Carlisle lose at the weekend – the Cobblers' great escape would be complete.

Jason Crowe, Ikechi Anya and Mark Hughes got the goals on Tuesday as Gray's men first led and were then forced to come from behind twice to secure a vital point.

"I'm disappointed we've not got the three points but what was pleasing was that we played with character and belief," said Gray "It is also a big psychological boost to have come out of the bottom four and it was very important we did that.

"But I think Saturday's game will be just as difficult as Tuesday night's was. Yes, they've been relegated but the Hereford players will be playing for contracts or for their professional pride and we know we need to be ready for that game."

Town lost two players to injury in the 3-3 draw with Scunthorpe, with Adebayo Akinfenwa not returning after half-time after his hamstring injury flared up and on-loan Arsenal right-back Paul Rodgers being stretchered off with a knee ligament problem.

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